

United We Ride: State Leadership Awards on Human Service Transportation Coordination

Overview

The United We Ride State Leadership Awards recognizes States and territories that have developed successful coordination strategies in the area of human service transportation. At its core, award recipients will highlight how they have tackled the growing and complex web of needed transportation services while finding common sense transportation solutions. This includes those States and territories that have provided leadership and action toward the development of cost effective services, enhanced level of service for more people, and increased access to healthcare, human services, job related activities, educational and other aspects of community participation.

During the last several decades, leaders in communities across the country have greatly improved the lives of millions of people by coordinating transportation services between human service agencies, public transportation agencies and private transit providers. This level of coordination has gone far in meeting the needs of consumers who must have access to healthcare, jobs or job training, education, and social networks of all levels of government officials who must make the most efficient and effective use of limited resources.

Coordination between State agencies is essential in building and implementing infrastructures, policies, and programs that facilitate coordination. This award will highlight and reward the success of States that have made significant progress in providing effective, coordinated community transportation services.

Eligibility

Those eligible for an award include State governments coordinating efforts between the Department of Transportation and other agencies (i.e. Administration on Aging, Medicaid, Maternal and Child Health (SCHIP), Administration on Developmental Disabilities; Department of Labor One-Stop Initiatives, Special Education Programs; Rehabilitation Services Administration, etc) that can demonstrate successful strategies related to human service transportation coordination.

States submitting applications must be engaged in coordinating transportation services for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income populations.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate successful collaborative strategies and partnerships with non-governmental agencies and stakeholder organizations.

Only one application may be submitted from each State. Applications may be submitted by any lead agency, but must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Governor and from a minimal of three additional agencies.

NOTE:

If selected, nominated programs must be presented by a senior leadership team with representatives from a minimum of three agencies at the National Leadership Forum on Human Services Transportation Coordination scheduled for February 23-25, 2004. Successful teams must be available to make a presentation during the event. (Funds for travel will be provided for up to three members of the State's leadership team). Successful teams will also be asked to serve as mentors for other States in the future.

Criteria for Selection

- Progress in addressing elements identified in a Framework for Action: Building the Fully Coordinated Human Service Transportation System.
- Collaboration - the degree to which the State demonstrates a leap of creativity and coordination across multiple government programs, consumer populations and provider organizations
- Effectiveness - the degree to which the State has achieved tangible results
- Significance - the degree to which the State successfully addresses the transportation needs of transportation dependent populations (i.e., people with disabilities; older adults; low income populations)
- Transferability - the degree to which the coordination strategy or aspects of it show potential for successful replication by other governmental entities, other States, or for Statewide or regional implementation.

Submission Process

Applications should be submitted electronically to the Federal Transit Administration no later January 9, 2004, 5:00 p.m. E.S.T. Email: UnitedWeRide@fta.dot.gov. Applications should be submitted in a double spaced format, using Times Roman, 12-point font.

States and territories may only submit one application. Applications may be submitted by any lead agency, but must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Governor and from a minimal of three additional agencies. Letters of support with signatures should be submitted directly via fax to (202) 366-3136. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Solomon, Federal Transit Administration at (202) 366-0242.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please submit the following information for the State Leadership Awards Program and address all of the following components when submitting an application:

State: _____

Name of Governor: _____

Contact Person for this Award Application: _____

Contact Person Address: _____

Contact Person Telephone Number: _____; **Fax Number** _____

Contact Person E-Mail: _____

- A two-sentence summary of the State's Human Service Transportation Initiatives. (30 words). In addition:
- Describe the State's Human Service Transportation Coordination efforts, emphasizing its creative elements. What is the innovative strategy that you developed and/or implemented? (400 words)
- What transportation coordination problem(s) does your State address? (250 words)
- Cite the best verifiable evidence of the most significant achievements in your State. (250 words)
- Who are the current and potential beneficiaries of the coordinated transportation services in your State? What are the direct or indirect benefits to citizens? (200 words)
- How replicable are the coordination strategies or its aspects? What obstacles might others encounter? (250 words)
- Describe how your State (both in rural and urban areas) efforts reflect elements of the Framework for Action: Building the Fully Coordinated Human Service Transportation system. (250 words)
- Describe the State efforts for long term sustainability in the area of human service transportation coordination. (200 words)
- Describe the methodology used to integrate customer satisfaction and information. (150 words)
- List reports, articles, and/or letters of support that *independently* document program results described in your nomination. Applicants who are unable to provide documentation are still strongly encouraged to apply for a State Leadership Award and can still present a compelling application.
- Complete the Application Cover Page